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Mississippi Problems.

The state constitutional convention which will meet at Jackson, Miss., today, will deal with problems of vital importance.

Among the delegates are many of the ablest men in the state, and the outcome of their deliberations is looked for with anxious interest by their constituents.

For some years the white people of Mississippi have recognized the evils of indiscriminate suffrage, and have felt that their supremacy could not be maintained without restricting the voting power of the ignorant black majority in some legitimate way, without conflicting with the constitution and laws of the United States.

The delegates feel that they have a difficult task before them in determining questions of right, power and expediency, and the adjustment of the demands of federal authority and peculiar social conditions.

Mississippi was reconstructed under acts of congress growing out of that provision of the federal constitution which guarantees every state in the union a republican form of government. The act readmitting the state in the union declared that it had adopted a constitution that was republican, that the legislature elected under it had ratified the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments, and that the state was entitled to representation upon this condition, among others, that the constitution should never be so changed as to deprive any citizen or class of citizens of the right to vote who are entitled to vote under the provision of the state constitution which says that "no property or educational qualification shall ever be required for any person to become an elector."

It is plain enough that, whatever changes may be made, the government must remain republican in form, or the United States will interfere. A recognition of this important fact has caused Senator George to condemn the system of plural voting recommended by Judge Campbell. The senator's views were recently summarized in these columns, and the leading statesmen of the south fully agree with him that, if the fundamental conditions of that act of readmission are observed, nothing in the way of an educational or property qualification in the matter of suffrage can be imposed.

But it is contended by some that these conditions do violence to the federal constitution, and those who take this view may feel disposed to ignore them. There will be no hope from the supreme court, as that tribunal has held that the whole subject of reconstruction must be entirely disposed of by congress. Now, as congress is still controlled by the party that was in power when Mississippi was first bound by these obligations it is safe to say that their fulfillment to the very letter will be insisted upon. There is danger that congress will conclude that any plan of suffrage tending to disfranchise many colored voters is a discrimination on account of their race, and in that event there may be an attempt to again reconstruct the state.

The situation is a perplexing one. The negro voters are estimated to have at the present time a majority of about seventy thousand, but in many counties the whites are in the majority. In the matter of illiterate voters The Memphis Commercial presents the following statistics from a Mississippi correspondent:

In 1870 the whole number of white voters was 76,000, of which 9,367 were illiterate, and the whole number of colored voters 88,850, of which 80,810 were illiterate, leaving of educated voters a white majority of 50,112.

In 1880 the whole number of white voters was 108,254, of which 12,473 were illiterate, and the whole number of colored voters was 120,278, of which 99,000 were illiterate, thus showing a white majority of 64,271. So much of the facts would lead one to believe that the white majority of educated voters is on the increase, but that is by no means the case. When the large increase in the colored population is considered we find that the illiteracy of the colored voting population, which was 50 per cent in 1870, fell to 70 per cent in 1880, while the white illiteracy, which was 12.1, decreased in the same period to 11.5 per cent.

On the ratio thus established the percentage for the year 1890 is estimated at 65 for the colored and 10 for the white, making a white majority of 40,453, and for the year 1900 at 56 for the colored and 9 for the white, with the greatly reduced white majority of 28,941.

The danger of allowing such a mass of dense ignorance to vote is simply incalculable.

The remedies proposed for this unhappy condition of affairs deserve serious consideration. Senator George recommends a change in the basis of representation from the whole number of inhabitants or qualified electors to that of counties or other subdivisions, and the proposition is made that the majority representation shall be given to the white counties, thus securing a legislature empowered to elect the governor and state officers, the objection to this plan is that it concentrates too much power in the legislature and the governor.

Another plan is thus outlined by the correspondent already quoted:

The system of plural voting recommended by Judge Campbell looks to an enlargement, to a certain extent, of the voting power of each individual otherwise having the right to vote, on the basis of his ownership of property in the county of his residence. It provides that the voter, otherwise qualified, who is owner in fee simple of land (or whose wife is, or who is tenant for years at will or at sufferance, is possessed of land in the county or town of the assessed value, over and above the encumbrances, of \$1,000, situated in the county in which he offers to vote, and having in such land an estate of freehold, or for a term of at least twenty years, and having been so possessed by him, or his wife or his tenant, for at least one year preceding the election, shall be entitled to an additional ballot because of such land.

It makes provision for those who own no land by allowing an additional ballot to all who paid the sum of \$10 in taxes for the year next preceding the election, and denies it to those whose title to land was conveyed in fraud of the law and simply to qualify them as voters.

It supplies with it a provision for the regulation

of primary elections which any political party may desire to hold, and that, at such elections, no elector shall be entitled to more than one ballot, thereby expecting to secure equal voting strength to the white citizens in their democratic primaries.

Senator George is satisfied that Judge Campbell's scheme is unconstitutional, and the judge is confident that the remedy proposed by the senator will be promptly condemned by the federal government.

Major Barksdale and Judge Calhoun are not so bold in their suggestions. The former goes in for a poll-tax and two years' residence in the state and county, while the latter would fix the term of residence at twelve months, and adopt the Australian ballot law, and make felonies and petit larceny disqualifications.

The Vicksburg Commercial-Herald is for a long term of residence and a strict registration law.

Chancellor Cowan is in favor of allowing all female property owners to vote, and as nearly all of them are white, an increase of 40,000 white votes would be the result.

Several other schemes are before the public, but they may all be summarized as follows:

1. A change in the basis of representation of such character as to vest the governing power in the white counties simply or in the white counties and senatorial districts.
2. Plural voting on a basis to make plural voters of a sufficient number of whites to secure a safe white majority.
3. Examination, registration and certification of fitness to vote by commission.
4. Conferring suffrage upon females having certain property qualifications and upon male minors between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one years possessing certain property and educational qualifications.
5. A disqualification for crimes of a certain character.
6. A longer residence in the state and county.
7. An increased compulsory poll-tax prepaid or a compulsory poll-tax of the present amount and a voluntary one of a greater amount prepaid, the latter to carry with its payment the right to vote.
8. The Australian ballot system.

Our Memphis contemporary's correspondent, after surveying the field, gives it as his opinion that the convention will put the Australian ballot system in the constitution, and rely upon it as the best way of maintaining white supremacy in a legitimate manner.

From this summary of the important work to come before the convention it will be seen that the issues to be discussed and the methods to be adopted will require exceptional wisdom and statesmanship if trouble with the general government is to be avoided. The good people of Mississippi will have the sympathy of the friends of honest government everywhere in their peaceful struggle for the maintenance of civilization and social order.

Business Bars the Bayonet.
The solid business men of the north move slowly in political matters, but when they make a start it is useless to oppose them.

We have felt confident all along that the business interests of the country would unite in a protest against the force bill, and it seems that we were not mistaken. The petition circulated by The New York Star has received numerous signatures, and a similar petition drawn up by the well-known firm of Thurber, Whyland & Co., of New York, is receiving signatures from the wholesale grocers and business men of all parties in every city and town in the country.

Undoubtedly, the opposition of the merchants and manufacturers to the federal election law will be little short of conclusive. These men do not act on account of politics. They are talking business. They have notified the senate that harmony between the sections is absolutely essential, and that it would be criminal to disturb that harmony. They denounce the force bill as unnecessary and inexpedient, promising nothing but evil, and calculated to revive the race question, and interfere with the peaceful progress of the south. The petition proceeds to charge the advocates of the bill in congress with partisanship, and the measure is declared to be unworthy of the party once honored by Lincoln, and Grant, and Garfield.

In this sensible and practical country, organized business is too big a thing for the bayonet to tackle. Within the past three weeks this tremendous force has raised its voice and made itself heard. The republican partisans have taken the alarm, and the action of the senate in modifying some of the offensive features of the house bill shows that the rising tide of protests is having its effect.

There is a growing opinion in the north that the bill threatens disastrous consequences to both sections. This sentiment finds expression in every petition. It led to the recent protest from the republicans of Alabama; it reduced the republican vote in Kentucky and caused the democrats to gain two or three counties. It is smashing the republican party all over the south, and has so demoralized the northwest that the indications point to a clean democratic sweep in that region.

It is a fortunate thing for the people at large that our material interests constitute in an emergency a mighty political force, superior in influence and power to partisan administration with an army of place hunters anxious to do its bidding. It is a blessed thing that the men who have most at stake are solidly united to maintain peace and fraternity, secure just laws and protect the integrity of the ballot box. Some day our republic, undermined by corruption, may totter and fall, but that day is still in the future. The time is not yet ripe for a successful crusade against the liberty of the citizens and the rights of the states. Peace will triumph over partisanship, and business will bar the way of the bayonet.

They Will Not Murnur.
There is no more entertaining spectacle to be witnessed in this country—or in any other country, for that matter—than the occasional exhibitions of republican gall that are given in the northern organs. There is a modesty and unconsciousness about these exhibitions that invest them with a peculiar charm.

One of the neatest we have yet seen is given on the little stage of The Boston Advertiser, under the mellow glow of incandescent lights. The editor appears in half-lights, so to speak, and comes before the audience dragging a piece of southern information across the stage by the hair. The lights burn low, and the trombone player grows dismal in his interpretation of melody. It is thought that a tragedy is

about to be enacted, but the lights are suddenly turned on, the editor smiles heartily and it is at once realized that a comedy is about to be enacted.

And a comedy it is. The announcement is made that in the recent county election at Chattanooga, held under the Australian system, a republican majority of 1,000 was changed into a democratic majority of 500—the negro vote being reduced 50 per cent.

The editor then sheathes his broadsword, pulls off his beetling eyebrows and his practical-looking beard and remarks that, under all the circumstances, "the republicans of the north will doubtless be forced to accept the result of this election without murmuring."

Could anything be neater than that? Is it possible for unadulterated gall to take a more beautiful shape? The northern republicans will not murmur! Well, we should murmur not!

The Attractions at Chautauqua.
THE CONSTITUTION takes pleasure in calling the attention of the people of Atlanta and of Georgia to the programme of unusual attractions that will be presented at the Piedmont Chautauqua during the present week.

The central feature of interest during the week is, of course, the lecture of Dr. Talmage, tomorrow, Wednesday evening, at 8 o'clock. Thousands of Atlanta people will doubtless go out to hear this most famous of the world's preachers and lecturers, and those who go will be amply repaid in the intellectual profit and enjoyment which they will derive from an hour spent with one who exercises as great an influence upon the thought and morals of the age as any living man.

Second only to this attraction are the lectures of Dr. Lyander Dickerman, upon the historic, social and architectural interests of ancient Egypt, which are of surpassing interest, as handled by one of the best thinkers and scholars of the age, amply illustrated by stereoscopic views and explained by a master of description and research.

Mr. Leon H. Vincent, one of the most popular young lecturers of America, will present, every day during the present week, one of his notable lectures upon literature and art, each lecture being the result of most elaborate and scholarly thought and preparation.

The latter part of the week will be rendered brilliant by lectures from Walter B. Hill, of Macon, whose name is a standard in thoughtful and literary circles in Georgia, and by at least one lecture from the brilliant and accomplished Mrs. W. H. Felton, of Cartersville, than whom no woman is better known and admired in the state.

The Piedmont Chautauqua is an enterprise that should be particularly dear to the people of Atlanta, because it is the expression of the best thought and highest devotion of the beloved Grady, and it is worthy in itself, in its suggestions and opportunities of culture, of the hearty and unstinted patronage of the people who are honored by its proximity, and who will be profited by its continued and prosperous existence.

Poor Whites and Negroes.
We find the following remarks in the editorial columns of The Boston Advertiser:

The popular cry has been, as borne to us in the north through the southern papers and by the speeches of Grady and other representative southerners, that the southern white people would not allow their interests to be controlled by a mob of unintelligent men. We have reason to believe that many have uttered this protest sincerely, for we have never heard any complaint against voting by the "poor white trash" of the south, although they are as illiterate and in some respects fully as miserable a specimen of humanity as the African race anywhere exhibits in the south. If our southern statesmen are sincere in desiring that the intelligent shall rule, discrimination will be made in the application of the Australian ballot system to persons of race, color or previous condition of servitude. Undoubtedly, very many colored men in the south care little about exercising the right of the ballot. It would be interesting to see what degree of eagerness would be manifested on the part of the illiterate blacks and the illiterate whites to qualify themselves as voters.

We believe that the colored men would show fully as much ambition in this direction as the poor whites.

We observe in the foregoing an example of the wonderful ignorance that seems to have taken possession of the northern mind with respect to the elements that go to make up citizenship. Even so wide and impartial a man as Mr. Edward Atkinson, in the course of a casual discussion with The CONSTITUTION, gave evidence of the fact that he shares with the editor of The Advertiser the mischievous ignorance which is willing to place an illiterate white man on the same mental plane with the illiterate negro. There is no comparison whatever between the two.

The editor of The Advertiser ought to remember the history of this republic. The men who fought to establish it, and who may be credited with founding it, had no great knowledge of books. Have there never been in New England any poor white men who lacked education, but who were yet patriotic citizens, understanding the principles of the institutions under which they lived, and ready to die by them? If not, then New England has been more unfortunate than the south, for there are in this section men who do not know a letter in a book, but who thoroughly understand and appreciate their responsibilities.

As Mr. Hayes said at Mohonk, there is an ignorance that strikes deeper than illiteracy. It is this ignorance that the south is afraid of. The white man who knows nothing of books, nevertheless has inherited an aptitude for understanding and appreciating his duties as a citizen, his relations with his neighbors and the obligations he owes to the state. In these respects, the poorest, the humblest and the most ignorant white American has immensely the advantage of the most highly educated negro. It is perfectly natural that this should be so, and there is nothing in the fact to the discredit of the negro.

This reminds us to say to our northern friends for the thousandth time that only time and experience can give to the negroes the elements and qualities necessary to a proper appreciation of the duties and responsibilities of citizenship. It has been so in the case of the whites, who had no freedom till they had fitted themselves for it, and no government of their own until they were able to establish and maintain it. This is the A B C of history.

CONGRESSMEN NOW HAVE TO GET A PASS FROM REED WHEN THEY WANT TO TRY THEIR WHISTLES.

OKLAHOMA, the new territory, has gone democratic. She will never be admitted to the union by the republicans.

WE DESIRE to remind Editor Dana that the word "electrocution" was invented by The Cincinnati Enquirer. A word to the wise.

BROTHER WAGAMAKER says he never read

the "Kreutzer Sonata." He thinks, nevertheless, that it is a very bad book. Brother Wagamaker would make a good book reviewer for a daily paper.

MR. MCKINLEY should kiss his little bill goodbye.

MISS FLORENCE ST. JOHN, an English actress, says she danced with a negro man in Boston and liked it. She probably found him a much nicer man than some of the British cads.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

EDITOR SHEPARD, of The New York Mail and Express, has seated a negro reporter for his paper in the press gallery at Washington. The other newspapermen are not kicking much. The negro cut off by a Central railroad, train at Dawson some months ago, has been given \$500 by the road.

—The jaundice has been almost an epidemic in Waycross for some time past.

—Columbus is going to establish a crematory to destroy her garbage and night soil.

—The Chattahoochee Valley exposition at Columbus is going to be a great occasion for that section.

—The Recorder claims that America has fewer letters than any city of the same size and importance in the state.

—The American Recorder says that the father and mother of "Jack the Peeper," the young man who has been peeping around the premises of American citizens, have approached the parents of young ladies and asked that the matter be hushed up. The parents have promised to do so, but it is the opinion of the Recorder that Peeping Jack will be rid of with bullets by some one of our lucky young ladies before he grows weary.

—S. M. Griffin has been appointed postmaster at Quitman. He will go on about September 1st.

—The Albany News says that the rain of last Friday was the heaviest that has fallen in Dougherty county for many years.

—Rev. George E. Brower, present pastor of the Summer Hill church, Stewart county, went through the "late unpleasantness" from beginning to end as colonel of the Forty-sixth Alabama.

—A cloudburst or water spout is said to have occurred near the Burnt Mills in Walker county a few nights since.

—There is a cave in Jasper county known as the Devil's den, and the inhabitants, through superstition, give it a wide berth.

—The time for the Covington and Macon railroad to begin the draw in their bridge over the Ocmulgee river at Macon has been extended by the war department, which orders the construction of the draw from July 1 to October 1, 1890.

—A. C. Pipkin, of company K, Forty-ninth Georgia regiment, is working to get up a reunion of that regiment in Hawkinsville, and wants all survivors of that command to communicate with him.

—The Athens Banner: Captain Henry Bousse, one of Athens' cleverest and most reliable citizens, had a queer experience last week. Two nights in succession he dreamed that a certain man had drawn the capital prize in the Louisiana lottery. He told several of his friends his dream, and they advised him to buy the ticket, but he had never made such investments and had no confidence in his dream, although, to gratify his curiosity, he made a memorandum of the number revealed in his dream. You can judge of the disappointment and surprise of the man when the last drawing took place, to discover that the ticket he had dreamed about had drawn \$100,000.

—Mr. S. P. Howard, a citizen of Charleston county, was thrown from his wagon last Wednesday and badly injured. His horse took fright and ran away, breaking the wagon into splinters.

—The Richmond district of Stewart county has increased in taxable property \$135,000 over the tax returns of last year. The bulk of this increase is in the city of Richmond, though farming lands in the district have increased in value a great deal.

—Wilkes county must have another fine coat show again this fall.

—The property given in by the colored people of Sumter county amounts to \$347,900. This is a good showing.

A Business Men's Protest.

A protest against the passage of the force bill has been started in the wholesale grocery trade of this city, and petitions to congress giving expression to the protest are being circulated by signatories in that and other branches of business, not only here but in other parts of the country. Those who have started this protest and those who are expected to join in it are business men, and their motives are entirely non-partisan. The reasons given in the petition for opposing the force bill are that it is "unnecessary, ineffectual and calculated to create a permanent content between the people of the north and south, now peaceful and prosperous;" that it will "fan into life the smoldering embers of the race question, which time and education are gradually extinguishing;" that it will set back the industrial progress of the south, "alarm capital, and injure alike the whites and the blacks, the south and the north;" and that as a partisan measure it is, in consequence of the spirit of the great leaders of the past in the republican party and hostile to the general welfare of the people.

No doubt it may be truly said that business men protest against this bill through fear that if passed it will work an injury to trade, especially to trade between the commercial cities of the north and south. It might also be said that injury to trade is of small importance, compared to the protection of the political rights of the people. In this there would be much force if the purpose and effect of the proposed measure were really to secure and protect rights which are now violated. Back of the commercial motive of the petitioners, we must seek the grounds for their protest. The argument is not merely that trade would be injured and money lost, but that the injury would come from a disturbance of peaceful relations and the checking of material progress in the south, which the well-being of the whole country is affected. Merely to check the material prosperity and development of the south would in itself be an outrage, and a wrong, because it is upon those forces that that section must rely, not only for the welfare and happiness of all its people, but for working out the social and political problems which it is perplexed. They are the springs of its progress, of improvement in the forces of education, and of the elevation and enlightenment of the sentiment of the people. In the language of the business men's petition, the southern people have "already cleared away most of the shadows which surrounded them, and which the sunlight of prosperity and intelligence with a little more time will entirely dispel."

The interference of the federal government in the elections of the southern states would not simply work this vast material injury, which would involve losses to business men on account of the stopping of trade, but it would work political mischief. In fact, the political mischief would be the immediate cause of the material injury. By inflicting sectional feeling anew and inciting to new life the expiring animosity to the national government in the control of northern republicans, it would check the political progress of the south and turn back the tendency toward a changing of party lines. It would arouse race antipathies anew and make more difficult the solution of the problems which they begot. There would be a serious wrong to the negroes and make the growth of the republican party among the whites impossible. The commercial objection to the policy of interference rests upon considerations that touch the vital interests of citizens of both races and of all classes.

This is understood in the south more fully than it seems to be understood in the north, for democrats and republicans, whites and blacks take in that section are protesting with the business men of the north against the passage of the force bill. They do not want it, because they realize the harm that it is doing to them, and they know that it would afford no real protection to their political rights. Its practical effect is so evident as to justify the belief that its real purpose is not to secure political rights, but to rekindle sectional animosity and conflict in the hope of obtaining partisan advantage in the north. It is fear of losing republican representatives in the north rather than expectation of gaining them in the south that inspired this infamous partisan device. But if the real sentiment of the northern people can find expression through business men and those interested in the peace and prosperity of the whole country, the blinding politicians may learn that the strategy which they dreamed "cannot be acquired by such a method. By adopting it they could win no new support, while they would repel much that they might otherwise have retained."

GEORGIA POLITICAL NOTES.

—Brooks county has its primary on September 15th.

—The census will give Georgia another congressman and the next legislature will most probably have to provide for the eleventh congressional district.

—The vote in Chattooga county, by which Hon. T. Hendrix was nominated as representative from that county, stood: Hendrix 377; scattering, 64—a very complimentary vote indeed. Chattooga recommended Captain Irvine for state senator, and the district for the following vote: Irvine, 604; W. M. Henry, 571.

—Mr. J. P. Cason is out for sheriff of Ware county.

—John M. Thurman withdraws from the race for tax receiver of Henry county, because none of his opponents have ever held office, and he thinks turn about is fair play.

—The Darien Timber Gazette suggests the name of south Georgia's practical farmer, Major O. M. Kyles, as the speaker for next, of the next year, and emphatically declares that it wants Clark Howell to be speaker.

—The Savannah News thinks that the people of Georgia ought to study up the Australian system of voting, and see if it cannot be used to advantage in this state.

—There are four candidates in the field for the office of clerk of the court in Henry county, three for tax receiver and two for sheriff. Henry is anticipating a lively time.

—Darien Timber Gazette: Captain R. J. Wilson will be a candidate for the office of door keeper of the next house of representatives, which position he filled during the sessions of 184-5-6-7. Captain Wilson is a one-armed confederate soldier.

—The senatorial convention of the seventh district has been called to meet at McDonald, Ga., on Saturday, August 16th.

—Pulaski has a republican candidate for the legislature in the person of Mr. A. J. Miller, who is a candidate for the nomination by the republican party of that county. It is very likely he will bear the standard against the democratic nominee, but democracy will triumph as usual.

—J. Clements announces himself as a candidate for the senate in the fifth district, subject to the election to be held October 1st.

—The Albany News and Advertiser urges Worth and Dougherty counties to put out a candidate for the senate in that district. It is Lee's time to name the man and they have put out Hon. W. C. Gill. The News claims that Gill is and always has been an independent, and that Lee has no right to put any one but a democrat upon the district.

—The Athens Banner says that it is the general impression in Athens that Hon. H. H. Carlton will come in as the darkhorse in the race for congress in that district.

—The democratic convention for the twenty-fifth senatorial district, will be held in Dalton

at the courthouse on Tuesday, the 26th of August, for the purpose of nominating a democratic candidate for the state senate.

—The friends of Mr. W. F. Payne announce his name in this week's *Thomas Times* as a candidate for the democratic nomination for representative from Upson county.

—Hon. F. H. Colley addresses the citizens of Oconee county at Watkinsville next Saturday, the 16th.

—Mr. A. H. Jackson has been put out by the Oconee Alliance as a candidate for the lower house.

GEORGIA STATE NEWS.

—Dawson will have a cotton compress in operation by September 15th.

—Feet are cheap in southwest Georgia. Mr. J. L. Quinn, the young man of Shalimar, who was cut off by a Central railroad, train at Dawson some months ago, has been given \$500 by the road.

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ON TO KNOXVILLE.

A THROUGH SCHEDULE FROM ATLANTA NEXT MONDAY

Over the Marietta and North Georgia—What the Railroads All Over the State Are Doing—Personal Mention.

It is expected that by next Monday a through schedule can be put on between Atlanta and Knoxville, on the Marietta and North Georgia railroad.

The work on the Knoxville Southern is being pushed night and day, and the line is now practically completed from Marietta to Knoxville.

The Knoxville Southern is the Tennessee end of the Marietta and North Georgia.

From Marietta the trains came in over the Western and Atlanta.

The new route will shorten by fifty miles the distance between Atlanta and Knoxville. This practically gives Atlanta an entirely new line to Knoxville, competitive with the East Tennessee, and opens a new and wonderfully rich tributary section of country.

It is understood that the Marietta and North Georgia will set about building from Marietta to Atlanta just as soon as the work on the Knoxville Southern is completed.

A charter for the Atlanta extension, it will be remembered, was granted by the last legislature.

The Cheapest Road on Earth.

A little Georgia road has attained something of a national, if not an international, distinction for being the cheapest railway in the world.

The credit is due very largely to Mr. W. B. Thomas, of Tennille, Ga. But throughout it was built by Georgia pluck, enterprise and money, and the state ought to be proud of it. It is the Dublin and Wrightsville.

The story is of general as well as technical interest. There's a moral in it.

This description is from a paper entitled "The Cheapest Railway in the World," read at the Cresson convention of the American Society of Civil Engineers, by Mr. Arthur Pow.

In 1884 the Dublin and Wrightsville railroad was incorporated to build a railway between the two Georgia villages named in its title. The distance between the places was about nineteen miles, and the sum of \$22,000 was subscribed for the construction. Only 75 per cent of this amount would certainly be paid in by Mr. W. B. Thomas, the president and superintendent of the line.

The full sum by subsequent subscriptions. The right of way was given free of cost in nearly every case by the adjoining property holders.

The lack of money necessitated an extremely economical construction.

After the location was finished a gang of forty convicts, at \$1 per day each, began the grading. The greater part of the line was through a forest of excellent pine timber, which supplied the wood for ties and trestles. A width of road just sufficient for the grading was first opened for a distance of several miles, and the most returned and cleared the whole right of way. The roadway was 14 feet wide on cuts and 16 feet on fills, the cost of the grading being 3 cents per cubic yard.

The cost of the road, then, was \$1.45. The iron rails were furnished by the Georgia Central railroad, of which line the Dublin and Wrightsville was a feeder.

The extension of the road from Tennille to the point mentioned above to the Oconee river was the most expensive part of the line, costing more than five times as much per mile as the remainder of the road.

In the second annual report of the president, it was shown that the completed road, ready for the rolling stock, had cost \$34,411 per mile, or \$65,381 in all.

The character of the business was such that nearly all of the freight was received and shipped in foreign cars, and \$1 per car was paid for the necessary rolling stock had any been needed. Fortunately, the Dublin and Wrightsville railroad is the terminus of the line.

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MAGIC MACHEN

WILL BUILD THE MIDDLE GEORGIA AND ATLANTIC RAILROAD.

The Outlook for a New and Direct Connection Between Atlanta and Savannah—What Machen Has Done.

A gentleman at the head of one of the most successful railroads in the south, said, a few days ago, that the Middle Georgia and Atlantic railroad would be built, that he had not thought much about it when it was first talked of, but now, he said, "It is giving a good many people anxious reflections."

"Said he, 'I do not know anything of Machen's resources or his methods of raising money, nor do I think anybody else does, but I do know that he gets it somewhere, and if he relies solely on his own personal efforts it is so much more to his credit. He certainly gets it from somewhere, for the bills of lading upon which he gets his rails and supplies show that everything is paid for by him before he calls for them. After all, this is the safest way to build a railroad, and shows that he has raised the money in advance.'

The gentleman in addition said that "Machen seems to have such unlimited confidence in the theory upon which he is building his road and the country through which it runs that it is calculated to win converts."

"You see," he said, "he is building a road so that it will command the sympathy of both of the largest cities in Georgia, and by reason of its being the shortest route it is naturally enlisted their patronage in case he gets to a point where he has to call for help."

Mr. Machen uses a most peculiar and effective business argument when north, and that argument is that he follows Sherman's march to the sea all the way. It is well known that Sherman was striking at the very heart of Georgia, so as to cut off the richest supply section of the confederacy, and Mr. Machen argues that his line will run directly through that country, and 20 per cent shorter from Atlanta to Savannah than any other road. "I tell you," he said, "it's an unanswerable argument."

But for the fact that this conversation was overheard under circumstances that preclude the publication of names, THE CONSTITUTION would surprise people who have thought but little of the Middle Georgia and Atlantic railroad. With the line from Eatonton to Machen now in operation eighteen miles, with its connection at Eatonton with the line from Eatonton to Atlanta five hours. The line will soon be finished from Covington to Machen, which will shorten the time at least two hours more, and will give Atlanta direct entrance into that section of country that has been practically cut off from her.

THE CONSTITUTION is not advised as to whether Mr. Machen is building his line to operate or to sell, but at any rate it is of so much importance to our city to have the road that it would be wise for us to look into the matter, and at once, to see if encouragement is needed. The city of Atlanta cannot afford to lose sight of a line that promises route sixty miles of the sea, and through the richest and most populous part of the state.

The people along the line are enthusiastically in its favor, because they desire close relations with Atlanta and Savannah, and this road will only be a few miles longer than the line from Covington to Atlanta will only be thirty-one miles, as against forty-one by the Georgia railroad, besides, it will open up new granitic lands, and furnish the connection so earnestly sought after by the quarrymen.

The Alabama Midland Opening.

SAVANNAH, Ga., August 11.—[Special.]—A large number of business men are expected to leave Savannah for Montgomery, Ala., tomorrow for the purpose of looking at the country along the line of the recently opened Alabama Midland and perhaps stopping over at several points for a day or two for the purpose of establishing business relations with the merchants along the road.

The Albany and Cordele.

ALBANY, Ga., August 11.—[Special.]—The Albany and Cordele railroad will develop a good territory for melon culture, and is being particularly adapted to these crops. The distance from transportation facilities has made the farmers devote their soil to the growth of corn and cotton. They all express the determination to engage in melon-raising another season.

THE CENTRAL AND ITS CHARTER

Possibility that it May Be Surrendered and a New One Asked For.

SAVANNAH, Ga., August 11.—[Special.]—The Central railroad may surrender its charter at the next session of the legislature. Of course it will want a new one, in that event. Perhaps a modification of the present charter can be made which will be satisfactory. If the old one is given up the Central will be subject to taxation, from which it is now exempt. The objection to the old charter is that it restricts the company in making financial arrangements. For instance, a large loan was on the point of being negotiated with an English syndicate, when a question arose over the authority of the Central to issue the bonds in question. The matter was thoroughly examined by lawyers, and the syndicate was advised not to conclude the negotiation at present.

General Alexander, who returned from New York this morning, when asked about the report said that the subject of having the Central's charter modified has long been discussed; as yet, though, no decision has been arrived at.

"Nothing would be asked of the general assembly," said the president, "that is not given to other roads."

The president went on to explain that railroads need large sums of money constantly to make improvements required of increasing traffic. To illustrate, he mentioned that President Roberts, of the Pennsylvania railroad, states in his last report that his company needs \$6,000,000 a year for improvements.

The Central has great improvements in view at different points. These cannot be made out of the net earnings. But the road's earning capacity would be so increased that the company could well afford to pay interest on the cost of improvements. A financial plan, long considered, contemplates the issue of a blanket mortgage bond on the entire Central system. Such a bond issued under a charter allowing it would be taken abroad and would bring millions of dollars to Georgia.

The Queen and Crescent

Is the shortest route to Shelbyville, Lexington, Frankfort, Louisville, Cincinnati, with compartment sleeping cars through without change, and connections northward for New York, Indianapolis, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo and Canadian points, New York, Boston, New England points and the summer resorts of the North and East. Through sleeping cars Chattanooga and Birmingham to Meridian, Jackson, Vicksburg, and Shreveport, making direct connections without omnibus transfer at Shreveport for Texas and New Mexico.

A line to New Orleans, solid trains and through sleepers, making connections for Texas, Mexico and California.

For full information, call at Queen and Crescent Ticket Office, Kimball House, S. C. Ray, Agent, Aug 12 4-11

There are many forms of NERVOUS DEBILITY in men that yield to the use of Carter's Iron Pills. Those who are troubled with nervous weakness, night sweats, etc., should try them.

The great Brooklyn divine, Dr. T. DeWitt Talmage, will lecture at Piedmont Chautauqua, Lithia Springs, Ga., Wednesday, August 13th, at 8 o'clock p. m. The railroad has made ample provisions for all who may attend.

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THEY ARE BACK.

THE COMMITTEE WHICH WENT TO TENNESSEE RETURNS.

The Hedge Fence Carefully Investigated—Those Interested in It to Meet at the Kimball.

Dr. Henry L. Wilson, Captain John A. Miller, Major Joseph Kingsbury, Mr. Edward C. Peters and Mr. Edward Wackendorf, the committee representing the exposition company, have returned from Tennessee, where they went to examine hedge fences.

The Dayton Hedge Company proposed to build a hedge fence around the exposition grounds, and asked the exposition company to appoint a committee to go to Tennessee, at the expense of the company, to examine the merits of the fence.

The committee made a thorough investigation of the hedge fences, and since its return has submitted the following report to Captain J. R. Wylie:

ATLANTA, Ga., August 11, 1890.—Captain J. R. Wylie, President and General Manager, Piedmont Exposition Company. Dear Sir: Your committee, appointed to accompany Messrs. Samuel Johnson and H. B. Merrett to Tennessee to examine into the merits of the hedge built by the Dayton Hedge Company, of Ohio, with reference to placing said hedge around the exposition grounds, submit the following report:

On reaching Memphis we were shown hedges of different ages, and in different stages, shapes and growth. We saw the young plants one year old and the older hedges four years old. We were shown a large curved knife for trimming and shaping the hedge. With this instrument an ordinary laborer can cut the hedge in a slow walk, easily trimming a mile a day on both sides of a hedge. We found that the owners of these hedges prize them very highly, and say that they are worth a dozen plank or rail fences. We next visited Union City, where we found the hedge in all stages, and of every age up to eight and nine years old, and the older the hedge the better we liked them. Every year adds value. The older ones are capable of resisting any animal from a dog to a bull. Hogs are turned into the lane when corn is growing in the fields. We saw corn and cotton growing in luxuriance within two feet of the hedge. In fact, the crops are cultivated as near the hedge as a man can walk. We found no sprouts or runners near the hedge, not even those nine years old. The process of cutting the lateral roots seems to forever prevent the side roots from growing or giving any trouble, even near the oldest hedge. We were shown a large number of tools the owners of these hedges seem to give them perfect control of the plant. When you stand upon an elevation and see miles of this straight hedge around the growing crops, it is really a thing of beauty, and certainly increases the effect of the landscape. We found no sprouts or runners near the hedge, not even those nine years old. The process of cutting the lateral roots seems to forever prevent the side roots from growing or giving any trouble, even near the oldest hedge. We were shown a large number of tools the owners of these hedges seem to give them perfect control of the plant. 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FINANCE AND COMMERCE

BONDS, STOCKS AND MONEY.

CONSTITUTION OFFICE.

ATLANTA, August 11, 1890.

New York exchange buying at par and selling at 1/2 premium.

STATE AND CITY BONDS.	Bid.	Asked.
New Georgia 3 1/2% 20 years.	102	102 1/2
New Georgia 3 1/2% 20 years.	102	102 1/2
New Georgia 4 1/2% due 1915.	107	107 1/2
Georgia 7 1/2% gold.	109	109 1/2
Georgia 7 1/2% gold.	109	109 1/2
S. C. Brown.	105	105 1/2
Savannah 1890.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1890.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1891.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1892.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1893.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1894.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1895.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1896.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1897.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1898.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1899.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1900.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1901.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1902.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1903.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1904.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1905.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1906.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1907.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1908.	102	102 1/2
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Atlanta 1911.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1912.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1913.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1914.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1915.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1916.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1917.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1918.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1919.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1920.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1921.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1922.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1923.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1924.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1925.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1926.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1927.	102	102 1/2
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Atlanta 1930.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1931.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1932.	102	102 1/2
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Atlanta 1942.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1943.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1944.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1945.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1946.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1947.	102	102 1/2
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Atlanta 1993.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1994.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1995.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1996.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1997.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1998.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 1999.	102	102 1/2
Atlanta 2000.	102	102 1/2

RAILROAD BONDS.

Georgia 1890.	107 1/2
Georgia 1891.	107 1/2
Georgia 1892.	107 1/2
Georgia 1893.	107 1/2
Georgia 1894.	107 1/2
Georgia 1895.	107 1/2
Georgia 1896.	107 1/2
Georgia 1897.	107 1/2
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Georgia 1994.	107 1/2
Georgia 1995.	107 1/2
Georgia 1996.	107 1/2
Georgia 1997.	107 1/2
Georgia 1998.	107 1/2
Georgia 1999.	107 1/2
Georgia 2000.	107 1/2

RAILROAD STOCKS.

Georgia 1890.	200
Georgia 1891.	200
Georgia 1892.	200
Georgia 1893.	200
Georgia 1894.	200
Georgia 1895.	200
Georgia 1896.	200
Georgia 1897.	200
Georgia 1898.	200
Georgia 1899.	200
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Georgia 1990.	200
Georgia 1991.	200
Georgia 1992.	200
Georgia 1993.	200
Georgia 1994.	200
Georgia 1995.	200
Georgia 1996.	200
Georgia 1997.	200
Georgia 1998.	200
Georgia 1999.	200
Georgia 2000.	200

THE STOCK MARKET.

The Day on the Floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

NEW YORK, August 11.—After the great advantage given the bears by the New York Central strike, the wiping out of bank reserves and the unusually severe drop in the condition of all cereal and cotton crop reports, they were inclined to push their movement for lower prices today, and although there was undoubtedly considerable support given certain stocks, and the covering of shorts by local operators, the market was generally at small fractions below the final figures of Saturday, while Lake Shore was down 1 per cent and Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis and Rock Island 1/2 each. Outside of the specialties there was no further immediate market decline. An unusually large business decline was soon checked and a rally inaugurated, in which the early losses were generally recovered. After the early liquidation was completed, however, money began to tighten rapidly, and toward the afternoon the market was marked by no wide movements outside of Sugar Refineries, but even the last named failed to make its usual sharp fluctuations. Sales of listed stocks 224,000 shares, unlisted 28,000.

Exchange quiet and easier at 4 1/2 to 4.80.

Money tight at 8 1/2, closing at 20 bid.

Sub-treasury balances at \$102,001,000; currency, \$7,445,000.

Governments dull but stronger; 4 1/2 to 4.80 100%.

State bonds steady.

A. H. C. 2 to 3. 110 N. Y. Central 100 1/2.

do. Class B 100 1/2 Northern Pacific 100 1/2.

Ga. 7 1/2 mortgage 100 1/2 do. preferred 100 1/2.

N. Y. C. 4 1/2 100 Pacific Mail 43.

do. 4 1/2 100 Reading 40 1/2.

S. C. Brown 100 1/2 Rich & W. F. Ter 100 1/2.

Tennessee 100 1/2 Rock Island 87 1/2.

Tenn. settlement 100 1/2 St. Paul 100 1/2.

Virginia 100 1/2 do. preferred 110 1/2.

do. 100 1/2 Texas Pacific 100 1/2.

Chicago and N. W. 100 1/2 Tenn. Coal & Iron 100 1/2.

do. preferred 100 1/2 Del and Lack. 100 1/2.

East Tenn. 100 1/2 Missouri Pacific 100 1/2.

Lake Shore 100 1/2 Western Union 100 1/2.

Louisville & N. 100 1/2 Pullman 100 1/2.

Memphis & Char. 100 1/2 Brunswick 100 1/2.

Mobile & O. 100 1/2 Mobile & O. 100 1/2.